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The words "elementary mathematics" must be interpreted to mean all the subjects usually given in the first three years of an American college course, except integral calculus, which is entirely omitted. Many of the subjects are outlined much more fully than is usual in American texts. Not only are the formulas stated, but in many cases the methods of obtaining them are outlined with sufficient fullness to enable any teacher to complete them. As an illustration of the book's completeness, ten methods of solving numerical equations are given, some of which are entirely unknown to many teachers of college mathematics in this country.

Algebra, including the theory of equations and determinants, and plane and spherical trigonometry occupy the first 100 pages. Another 100 pages are devoted to the subject of geometry, from which the usual high school course in plane and solid geometry is omitted. Besides the ordinary course in analytic geometry, it includes the outline of what is usually given under the name of modern geometry: contact of conics, geometric and analytic treatment of polar reciprocation, harmonic ranges and pencils, inversion, etc.

The portion of the book devoted to the geometric treatment of conics is so complete that it might almost be used as a text-book in that subject, and the application of the differential calculus to the study of curves contains much that is not usually found in American books. The book closes with short outlines of statics, dynamics, and hydrostatics. Although the treatment throughout is distinctly of the English type, any American student specializing in mathematics will find it very useful.

C. H. ASHTON.

ISIS, Revue consacrée à l'histoire de la science, publiée par GEORGE SARTON, D.Sc., Wondelgem-lez-Gand, Belgium.

This proposed journal, to be devoted to the history of science, has secured the support of a notable list of scholars representing almost every phase of academic activity. The "Comité de patronage" includes, as representatives of science, Svante Arrhenius, Jacques Loeb, Wilhelm Ostwald, Sir William Ramsay, Jean Mascart and others; among the representatives of mathematics and the history of mathematics are Moritz Cantor, Siegmund Günther, Sir Thomas L. Heath, H. G. Zeuthen and David Eugene Smith; among orientalists and classical scholars are Franz Cumont, Ludwig Stein and J. L. Heiberg; and among historians, Henri Berr and Karl Lamprecht.

The aim of the journal is to study the genesis and development of scientific ideas as an integral part of the history of civilization. Further than this the journal will assist in assembling the material necessary for such study and in perfecting the methods and instruments of historical research in science. It should appeal not only to historians of science but to all students of history, science, philosophy and sociology; in a word, to all who desire to understand any phase of the evolution of the human intellect.

Contributions are to be published in French, English, German or Italian.

This corresponds to the practise of the *Bibliotheca Mathematica* which is devoted to the history of the mathematical sciences. The editor of *Isis* is George Sarton, Wondelgem-lez-Gand, Belgium. Subscriptions, 30 francs per year for four numbers of about 160 pages each, should be sent to the printer, Soc. an. M. Weissenbruch, imprimeur du Roi, 49, rue du Poinçon, Brussels. The attention of our readers is called to the desirability of supporting such worthy projects for the advancement of science as *Isis* and the *Bibliotheca Mathematica* which latter is published by Teubner, Leipzig, at 20 marks per year.

L. C. KARPINSKI.

An Introduction to Mathematical Physics. By R. A. HOUSTON. Longmans, Green, and Co., London, 1912. x+200 pages. \$2.00.

This book is intended as a first survey of the field of mathematical physics, for students already familiar with elementary physics and dynamics. As a single volume of this grade on the whole subject it is something of a novelty, at least in English. To compare with it the reviewer calls to mind only the somewhat similar works by Christiansen and Weinstein. Its scope is, however, more restricted than the title might seem to imply.

There is no consideration given to the molecular theory of matter, the modern electron theory, or the principle of relativity. Historical perspective is absent and the physical setting of the mathematical notions is treated in the briefest way. The book may perhaps be best described as a somewhat detailed syllabus of the classic mathematical physics of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, so far as that relates to the descriptive theory of physical media, expressed in differential equations and the related integral formulas.

There are six chapters, entitled: attraction, hydrodynamics, Fourier's series and conduction of heat, wave motion, electromagnetic theory, and thermodynamics. In view of the moderate space employed, the selection of material seems judicious and representative. The mathematical treatment is rather better than the explanations of experimental results. A few of the equations are written in vector form, as an alternative short-hand, but there is confusion in the notation between a vector and its absolute value, and no real use of vector analysis as an instrument of thought. Each chapter contains several lists of examples as exercises, on the whole free from the common fault of possessing merely academic interest; but no hint of a bibliography appears.

A. C. LUNN.